

Thousand Springs Water User Survey Results

Kevin Ramsey
University of Washington
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About the survey

▼ Background

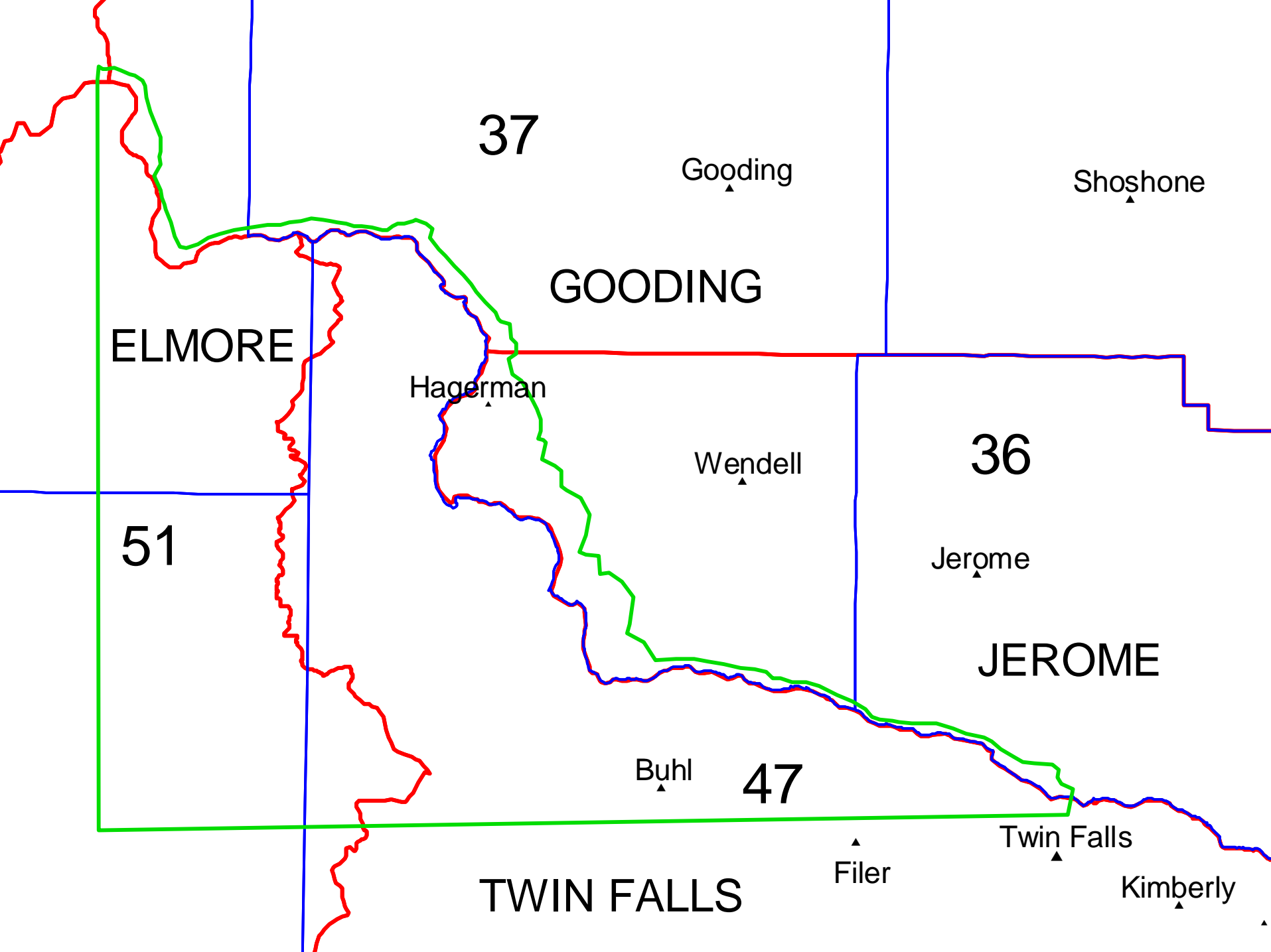
- 10 water users were interviewed during the summer of 2003
- A list of 17 concerns regarding the water delivery challenges in the Thousand Springs area was created

▼ Survey objectives

- To help us assess the relative importance of these concerns to a broader population
- To gather additional concerns, issues, and ideas from water users in this region

Survey distribution

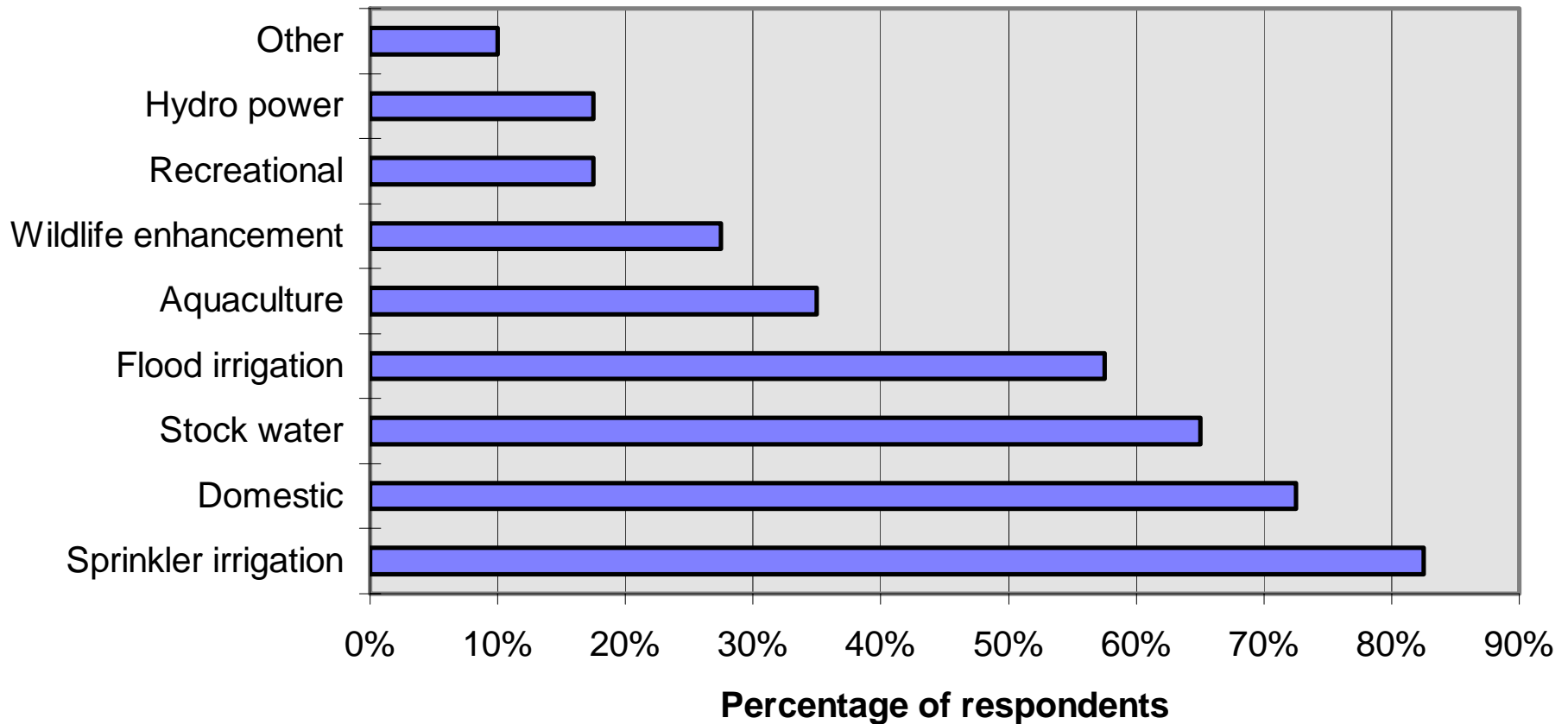
- ▼ Handed out at public meeting in Hagerman on December 1, 2003
- ▼ Mailed to all water right holders in Thousand Springs region during January 2004



About the survey respondents

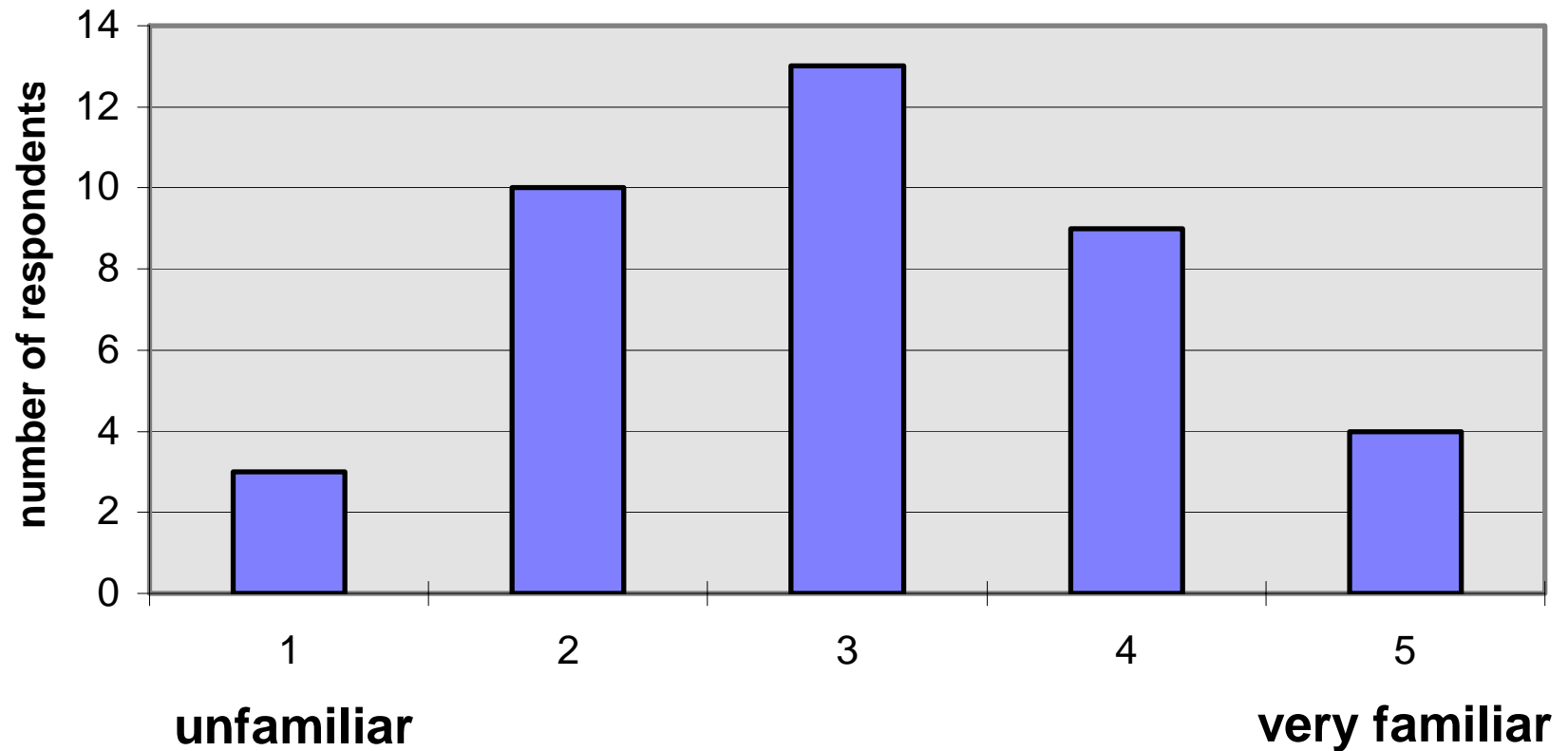
- ▼ 40 total surveys received
 - 58% only use surface water
 - 38% use both surface and ground water
 - 5% only use ground water
- ▼ 83% respondents have been involved with the acquisition, diversion or regulation of water within the State of Idaho for 10 or more years

What do you use your water for?

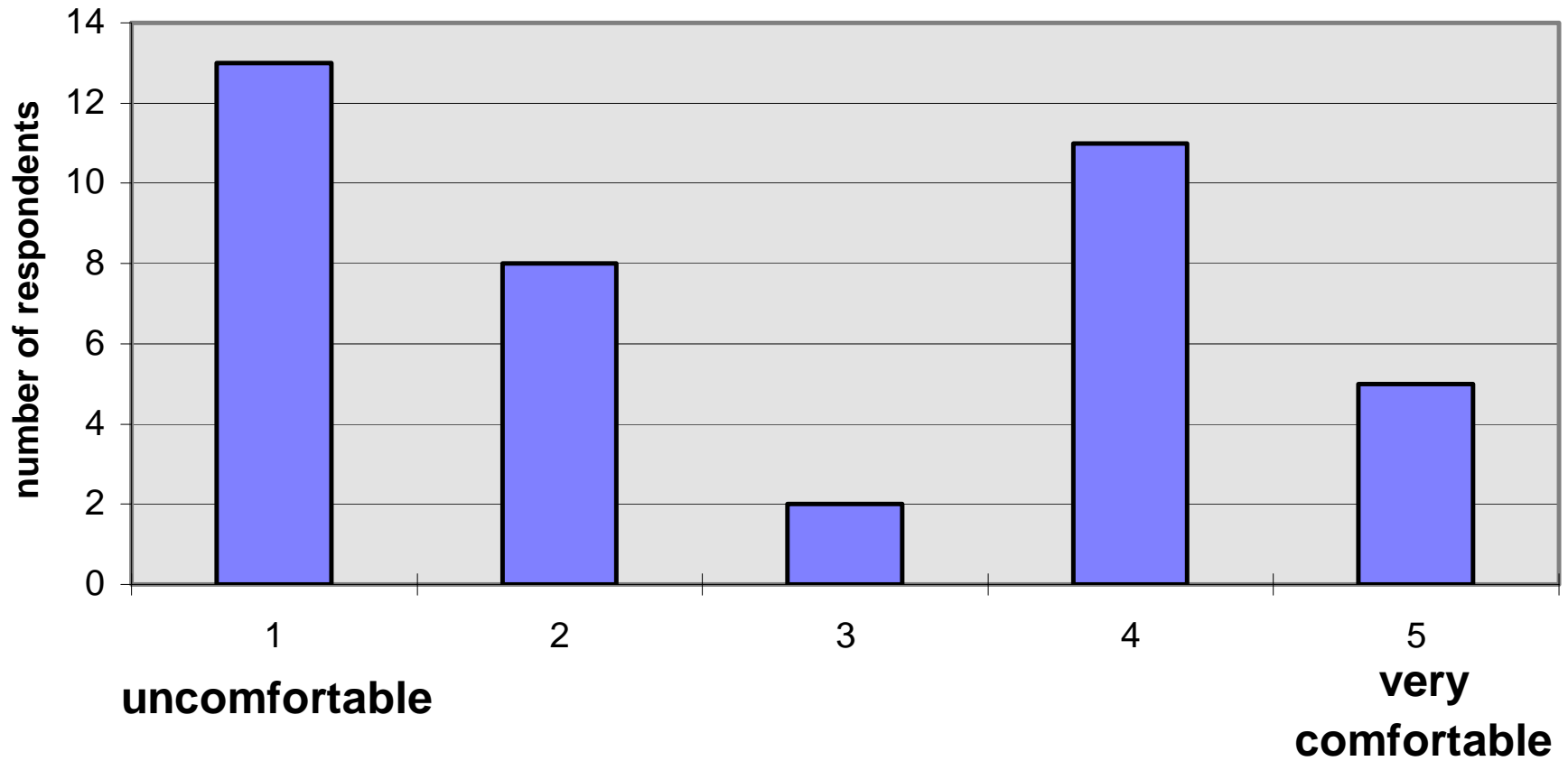


Note: 74% of respondents reported 3 or more water uses.


How familiar are you with the Idaho water resource management process?



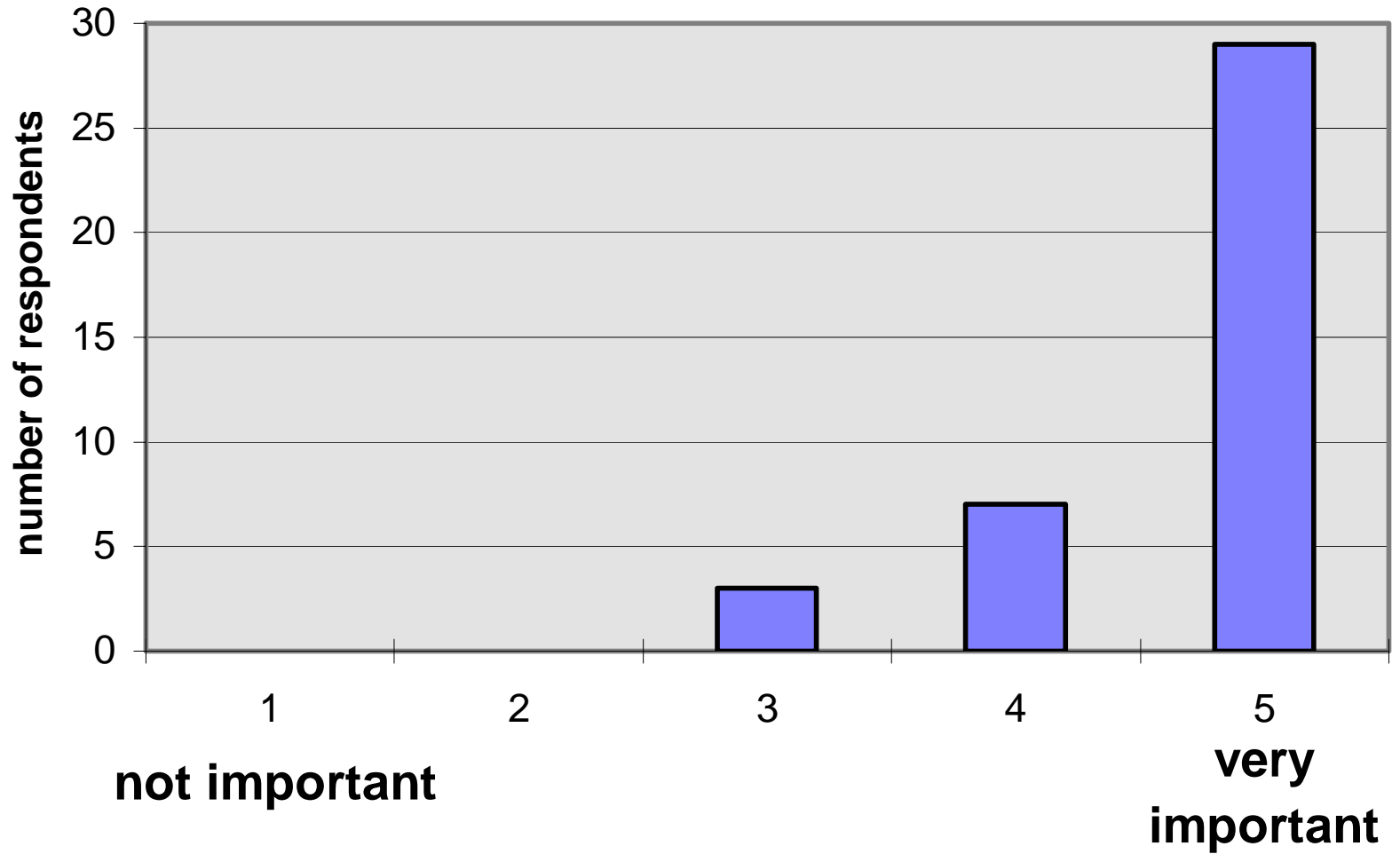
How comfortable are you using the Internet?



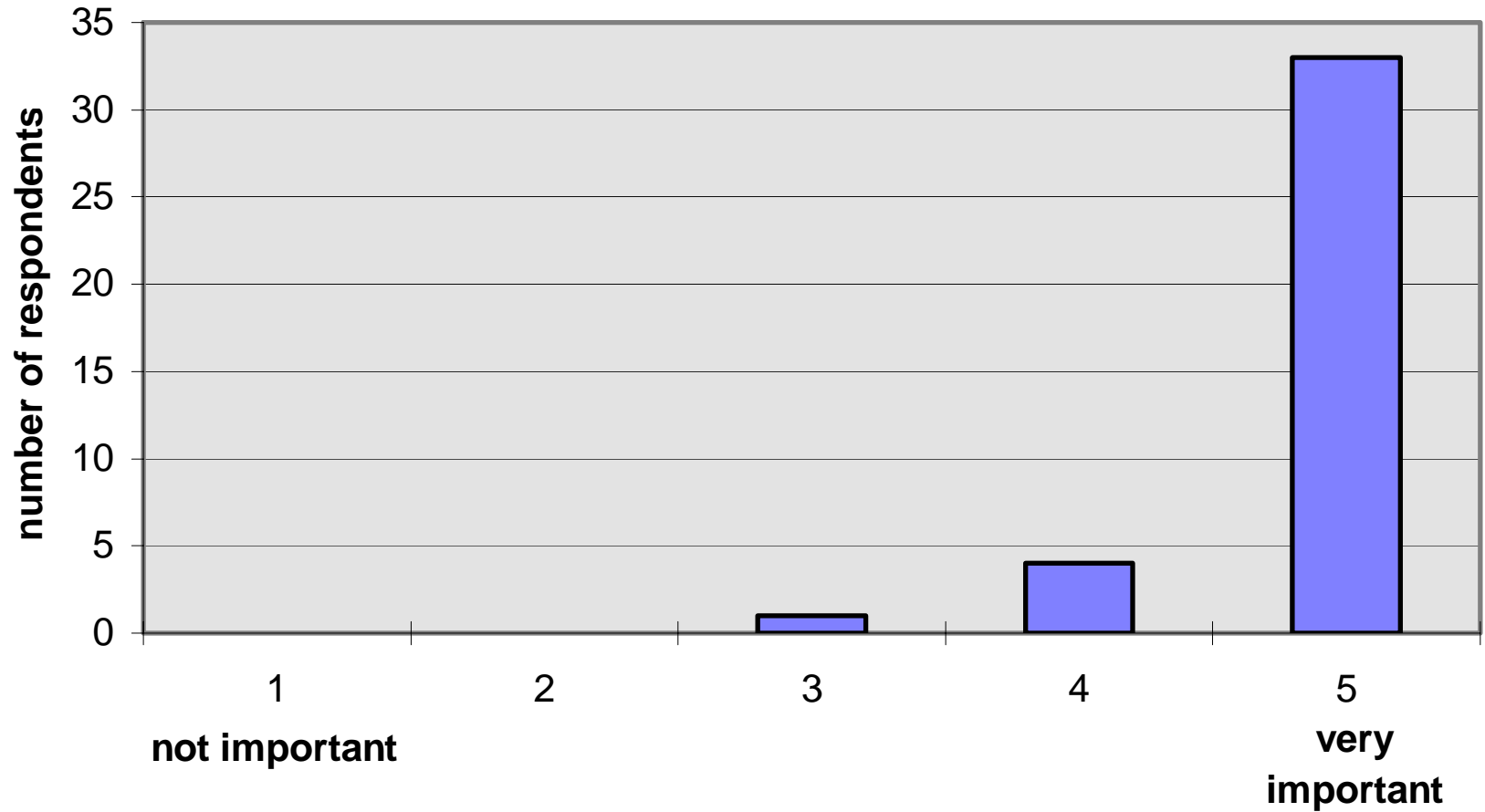
Concerns of most importance to respondents

- ▼ Enforcement of prior appropriation doctrine
 - ▼ Consistent regulatory process for all water rights
 - ▼ Management and maintenance of the water delivery system
 - ▼ Efficiency of the water delivery system
 - ▼ Honesty and trustworthiness of water users
 - ▼ Sustainability of spring flows
 - ▼ In-stream flows
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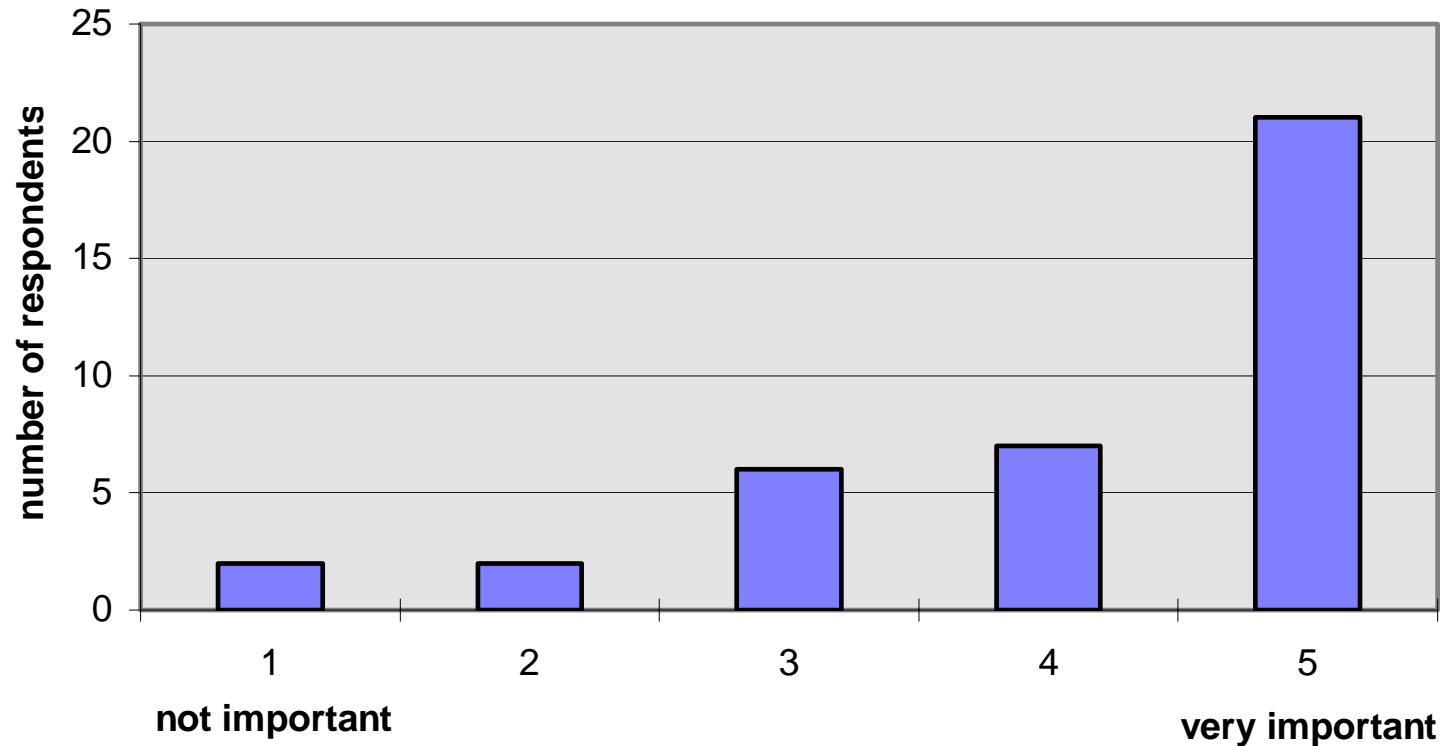
Enforcement of prior appropriation doctrine



Sustainability of spring flows



Water quality / water temperature

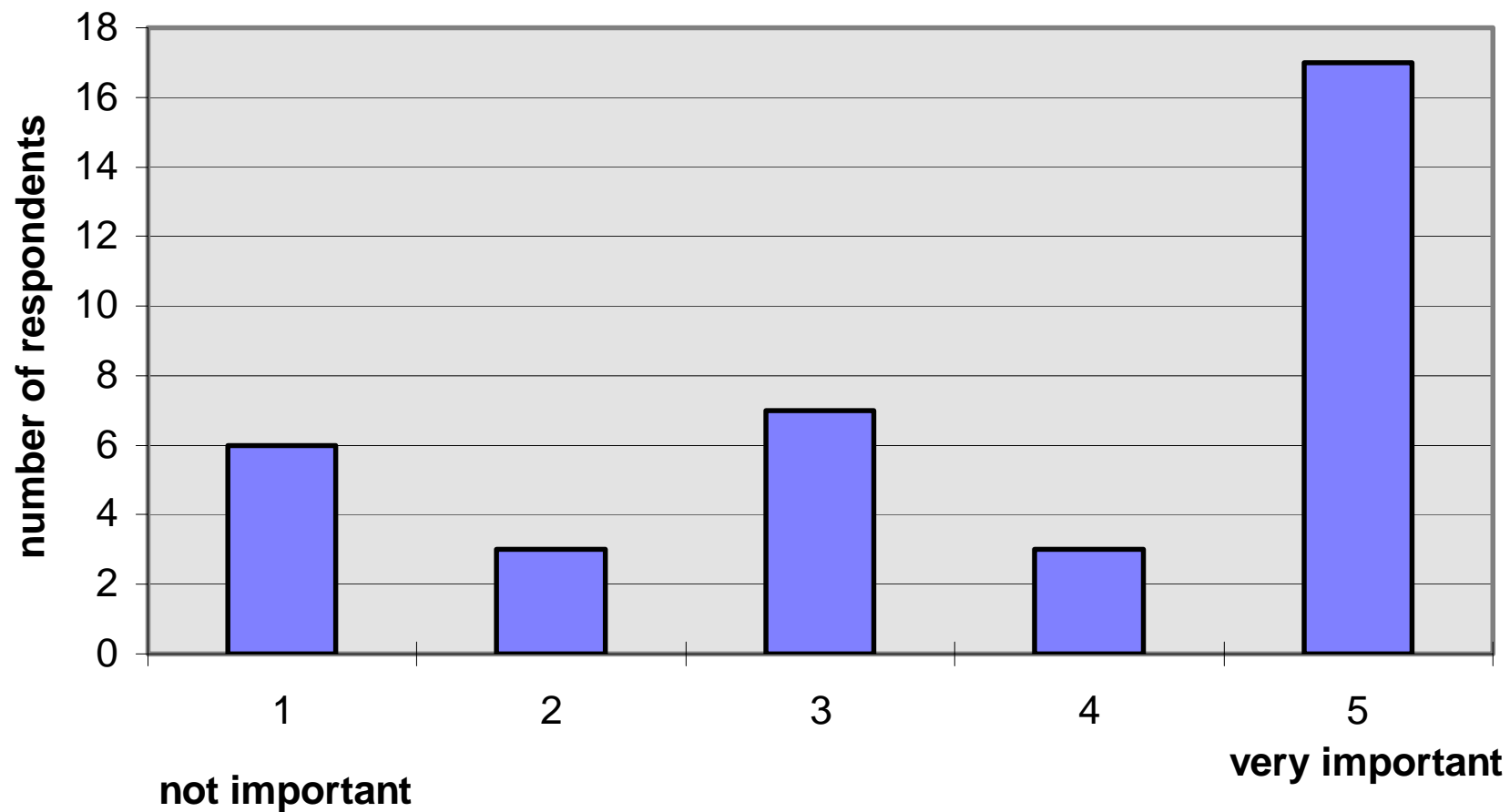


Note: 8 respondents wrote in additional comments regarding specific water quality concerns.

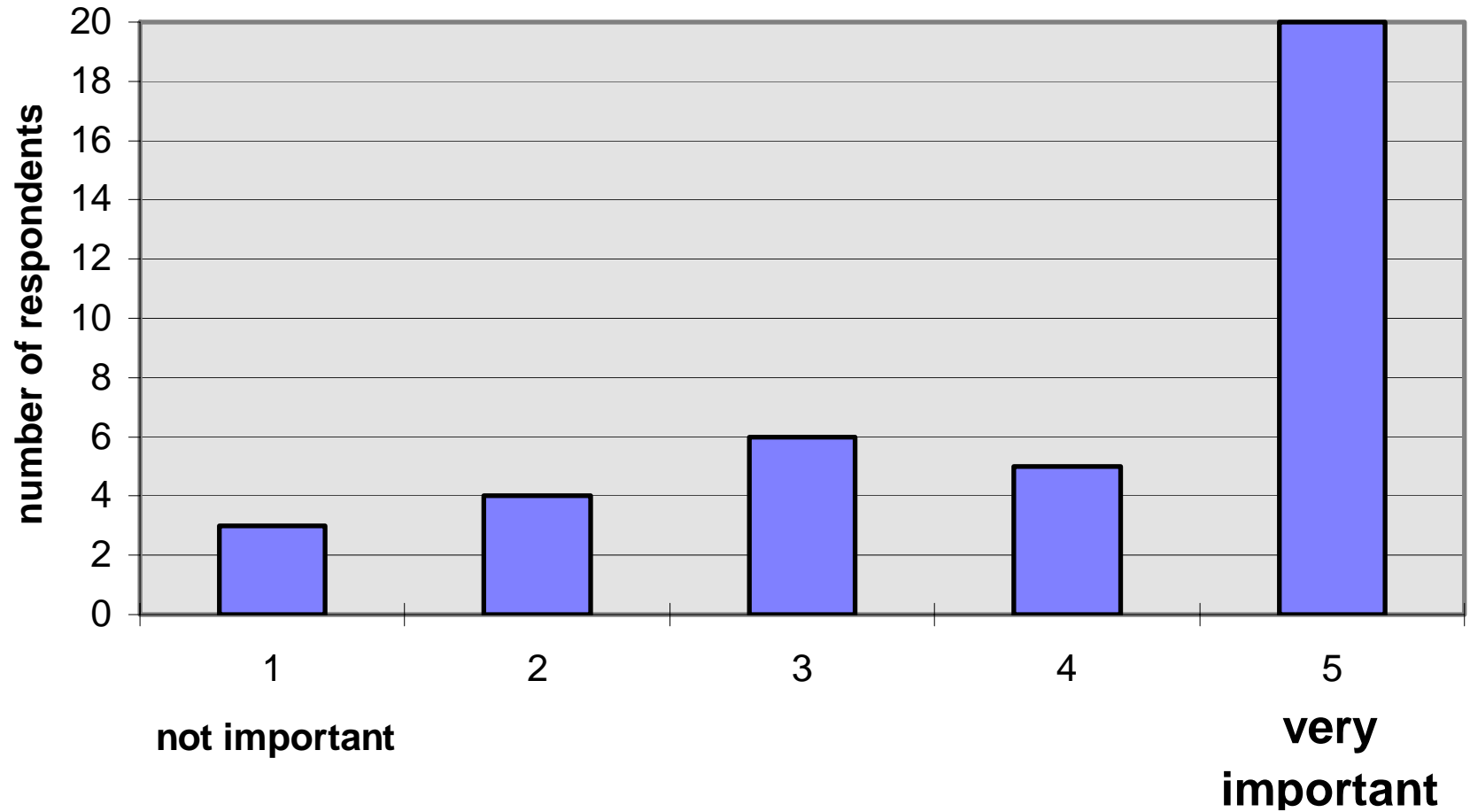
Concerns that respondents have less agreement on

- ▼ Indirect costs to water users
- ▼ Avoiding legal disputes
- ▼ Sharing the burden of water shortages
- ▼ Making sure nobody is left without water
- ▼ Natural beauty
- ▼ Preserving fish/riparian/bird habitat


Make sure nobody is left without water



Sharing the burden of water shortages



Written comments

- ▼ Specific water pollution concerns (8)
 - ▼ Importance of water law enforcement (7)
 - ▼ Support of recharge/aquifer restoration (4)
 - ▼ Over-regulation of water users by IDWR (4)
 - ▼ Concerns about the waste of water (2)
 - ▼ Role of water in regional self-sufficiency (2)
 - ▼ Importance of dependable water delivery (1)
 - ▼ Lack of leadership by IDWR or others (1)
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Next steps

- ▼ Make survey results available on the website and in paper format
- ▼ Expand public outreach to communicate existing or planned efforts relevant to these concerns